

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 13, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, abstract, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-20 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Accordingly, these additional claims are not drafted as amendments to change the scope of previous claims 1-6. Consideration and allowance of claims 7-20 is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Abstract

The Office Action states that the Abstract is objected to on the bases that the title Abstract should be centered, and “(57)” and “(Fig. 3)” should be removed. Appropriate changes have been made in the amended Abstract included with this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection in view of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action states that claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) because they are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,530,575 of Acampora et al. (“Acampora”). These claims have been cancelled. Accordingly the rejection of these claims is moot.

New Claims

In this response, claims 7-20 have been added, of which claims 7, 11, and 14 are independent claims. These claims are based on claims currently pending in a corresponding Japanese application. The claims are supported by the original specification, and thus do not constitute new matter. For example, claims 7, 11, and 14 are similar to original claim 1, although each claim has its own scope.

Claim 7, upon which claims 8-10 depend, is directed to a planning arrangement for forming a communications network. The arrangement may include a set of at least two modules. Each module of the set may represent a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network. The arrangement may be configured to allow selection of at least two modules of the set. The arrangement may be configured to arrange said at least two modules of the set on top of each other as a layered structure modeling the communications network to be formed. A given module of the layered structure may be configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module.

Claim 11, upon which claims 12-13 depend, is directed to a planning method for forming a communications network. The method may include forming a set of at least two modules. Each module of the set may represent a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network. The method may also include selecting at least two modules of the set. The method may further include arranging said at least two modules of the set on top of each other as a layered structure for modeling the communications

network to be formed. A given module of the layered structure may be configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module.

Claim 14, upon which claims 15-20 depend, is directed to a planning module for forming a communications network. The module may be a part of a set of at least two modules. The module may represent a particular technical solution usable in the communications network. The module may be arranged on top of and/or below another module to form a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed. The module may be configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module.

In certain embodiments, the present invention makes it possible to select the number of layers with which the communications network is modeled by selecting appropriate modules. This can allow the user to start network planning with a coarse model and the fine tune the network model later, as explained in the specification at p. 3, ll. 9-15. Additionally, embodiments the present invention can permit the user to easily experiment with different transport stacks by selecting the corresponding modules accordingly, as illustrated, for example, at p. 5, l. 31 – p. 6, l. 5. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art of Acampora fails to disclose or suggest all the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, the prior art fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Acampora does not anticipate these claims. Acampora discusses a recursive mesh network. Acampora focuses on providing areas of finer granularity in connectivity in those areas where no more access stations can be placed in the network. Regarding the details of the network, Acampora simply assumes that the optical fiber connections and locations of the optical switches will coincide with the planned mesh structure, as seen at Col. 17, ll. 55-65.

In contrast, in certain embodiments of the present invention, network modeling is based on a set of modules. Each module represents a technical solution usable in a layer of a communications network. A user is permitted to select at least two modules from the set for modeling the communications network that is to be formed.

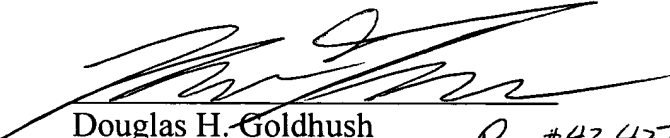
Although Acampora, in Figure 10, provides a general representation of a network as a layered diagram, there is no suggestion that actual network planning would be done based on layers. Further, there is no discussion in Acampora about a set of planning modules, each module representing a technical solution usable in a layer.

Note that the claims relate to network planning (“A planning arrangement for forming a communications network” [Claim 7], “A planning method for forming a communications network [Claim 11], and “A planning module for forming a communications network” [Claim 14]). Additionally, the specification of the present invention at p. 1, ll. 35-36 describes the invention as offering an arrangement and a method to form a communications network.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the pending claims 7-20 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Applicants therefore respectfully request examination and allowance of the presently pending claims.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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